

Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee April 14, 2022

H. 518 & Municipal Energy Management

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Key Points

1

Efficiency Vermont believes H. 518--with minor changes--is a strong bill that presents real opportunities. Every dollar saved on energy costs funds other key municipal programs.

2

Under the current landscape, it can be a challenge for small municipalities to access the right services. H 518 is a real opportunity to overcome that.

3

Program administration at BGS should be funded out of the appropriation—NOT out of the EEC charge. We ask that this be aligned with other appropriations.

Current Landscape for Municipalities

Efficiency Vermont

- 8 staff members supporting Munis
- Free walk throughs; technical and project support
- Incentives for upgrades to equipment, buildings, operations
- 60 Munis served/year

BGS: SEMP-Ex

- Program created in 2019
- Program design only to date

VGS

- Staff available for walk throughs upon request
- Incentives for thermal and gas upgrades

RPCs

- 2021 budget included new \$\$\$
- 1-2 staff per RPC
- Support planning and development of critical infrastructure

VLCT

- General support and advocacy (not energy specific)
- Insurance coverage
- Municipal Assistance Center

Electric Utilities

- Tier III incentives
- Pilot initiatives including GMP's Resiliency Zone work

Efficiency Vermont Enhanced Support for Municipalities

New offers launched in 2020 for
High Energy Burden Towns

- In 2020 Efficiency Vermont provided \$25,427 in incentives for 6 towns (Barre City, Irasburg/Barton/Orleans, Island Pond/Brighton/East Brighton, Johnson),
 - Towns will save a **combined \$167,787** over the lifetime of the projects
- In 2021, 5 projects completed so far, with 3 more underway.
- Projects included lighting upgrades, heat pumps and installing other efficient products in municipal buildings





Village of Orleans

“This project was proof that when everyone works together with a common goal, we can do amazing things in a short amount of time.”

John Morley, Orleans Town Manager

The Village of Orleans focused its efforts on upgrading its wastewater treatment facility, which uses as much as 10 times more energy than other municipal facilities in Orleans.

\$167,787

Amount 6 towns in 2020 pilot program saved

Proposed Change

Efficiency Vermont believes H. 518 should mirror how most ARPA grants are set up—with the implementing state agency recouping administration costs out of the grant itself.

As passed by the House, BGS positions are funded using EEC funds for projects that are beneficial for the community but may not result in electric energy savings, nor create benefits for electric ratepayers.

H. 518 will be most valuable if it does not detract from the PUC-approved Efficiency Vermont EEC budget to fund State Government positions.

Questions?



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